

17 May 1983

WASHINGTON  
TURNER - BOOK

Former CIA Director Stansfield Turner said Tuesday night he has had some problems, but no major ones, with CIA censors going over a book he has written about U.S. intelligence.

Turner said in a telephone interview from his McLean, Va., home Tuesday night that he has been submitting chapters of his book periodically over the past five months to the agency he headed during the Carter administration.

"I submit everything I do to the agency, as I'm required to do," the retired Navy admiral said. "I'm not having any serious problems with them."

"They have indicated some things that I've written are classified," he said, refusing to elaborate. "We're negotiating those."

He said he has no timetable for completing the book, which is untitled.

Asked to describe his topic, he said: "It's a book about the problems of conducting secret intelligence activities in an open, democratic society."

"You have to have secrecy to do intelligence," he said, but "secrecy can lead to abuses."

"Therefore you need some oversight to shield against abuses. Oversight can reduce secrecy. And therefore you've got a circular problem here that is difficult to resolve but can be resolved and I'm discussing the ways you can go about doing that."

While Turner was CIA chief, a former agent, Frank Snepp III, who had written a book critical of the agency's performance in Vietnam, was sued by the government for failing to submit the book for review. Snepp later was ordered by the courts to surrender all profits from the book, "Decent Interval."

Turner testified in Snepp's case that the book was a major factor in the declining credibility of the agency.

Asked on Tuesday night if he still supported the review procedures set up by the CIA, Turner replied: "I feel that there must be a review process like this. I've fully complied with it ever since I've left the agency. I have differences with them on specific rulings but I have not yet reached the point where I think they (the differences) are serious."